

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

Nan-yang, which has a well-developed network of highways extending south to Hupeh Province, west to Shensi Province, and into all parts of Honan Province. 361
489
133

Wuhan, the largest municipality in Central China and the provincial capital of Hupeh, comprises the tri-city of Wuchang, east of the Yangtze River; Hankow, north of the Han River and west of the Yangtze; and Hanyang, south of the Han River. A 1952 estimate placed the population of Wuhan at 1,200,000. Of the three parts of Wuhan, Hankow was a center of bustling political activities in the 1920's when the Nationalist and Communist parties quarreled through their first short-lived coalition, and both parties were, at the same time, torn with internal strife. At Hanyang, an ordnance plant that has done a great deal for China's growing armament is being expanded under Communist direction. In this community, sprawling over the confluence of the Han and Yangtze rivers, a large-scale reconstruction program has been launched to remodel the parks and to build a people's square, a worker's cultural palace, a martyr's memorial, and other structures for public use. [62]

In August 1955, the plan for a modern railway bridge on the Yangtze River at Wuhan was reaching its final stage. When this bridge is completed there will be direct connection between the Peking-Hankow and Hankow-Canton railways. [389]

The section of the Yangtze River in Hupeh Province is navigable for river steamers all year round. West of I-ch'ang, the Yangtze River flows through the famous gorges, which pose a difficult problem for the most experienced navigator. The Communist press has repor-

Table 2. Density of Population in Central-South ^{*/} 161

	Population	
	Per Sq. Km.	Per Sq. Mi.
Honan Province	280.1	725.4
Hunan Province	151. 2	391.6
Hupei Province	115.0	297.8
Kiangsi Province	98. 2	254.3
Kwangsi Province	79. 3	205.3
Kwangtung Province	155. 6	403.0
Regional Average	151. 23	391. 6

*/ Based on the 1953 census and Chung-hua Jen-min Kung-ho-kuo Fen-sheng Ti-t'u [Atlas of the People's Republic of China by Province] , Shanghai, Ti-t'u ch'u-pan-she, 1953.

A region in the United States approximating the Central-South China Region in size and with some similar climatic and topographical features would consist of Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, and Georgia. The average population density in this part of the United States is 61 per square mile. A comparison shows that the Central-South China Region is more than six times as crowded.

II. COMPOSITION AND RATE OF GROWTH

Very few reports have been published in conjunction with the 1953 census. What little information that is available pertains mainly to the Chinese population as a whole. For example, the national average ratio between male and female is 51.82 per cent and 48.18 per cent. ⁵ 162 •

5. Pai Chien-hua, "Liu-wan-wan Jen Wo-kuo She-hui-chu-i Chien-she Ti Wei-ta Li-liang, " ["Six Hundred Million People--A Great Strength for Socialist Construction of China, "] Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Peking, November 1, 1954, p. 3.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

An investigation into other sources, such as gazetteers and yearbooks of various provinces published from 1920 to 1945, reveals that the early statistics are often inconsistent and frequently based on guesswork. The following table is the latest available: 162

Table 3. Sex Ratio in Central-South China

Population (1948) */
Number of Males per Hundred Females

Honan Province	103. 72
Hunan Province	111 . 55
Hupei Province	109. 15
Kiangsi Province	107. 88
Kwangsi Province	109. 08
Kwangtung Province	113. 27
Regional Average	108. 91

*/ Based on Chung-hua Min-kuo T'ung-chi T'i-yao [Statistical Abstract of the Republic of China], Taipei, Executive Yuan, Directorate-General of Budgets, Accounts and Statistics, 1955, p. 20.

As of June 1953, the national average ratio between rural and urban population in China was 86.74 per cent and 13.26 per cent. Explaining the preponderantly rural section of the nation's population, the Communist authorities add that there has been a remarkable increase in the urban population (40 per cent in certain cities) compared with their 1950 figures. Earlier statistics, such as those in the following table, indicate a larger percentage for urban population. This apparent contradiction to the Communist claim of an increase in urban population is possibly the result of a discrepancy in definitions of "urban." While the Nationalist Government in the past used the farming population as the basis for rural population figures, the Communists may

have drawn the line to include in the 1953 rural population the communities below a certain size. 162

Table 4. Rural and Urban Population in Central-South

	China (1948) * /	
	Rural	Urban
Honan Province	88.42	11.58
Hunan Province	74.31	25.69
Hupei Province	90.80	9.20
Kiangsi Province	80.02	19.98
Kwangsi Province	79.62	20.38
Kwangtung Province	71.47	28.53
Regional Average	80.74	19.26

* / Based on Chung-hua Min-kuo T'ung-chi T'i-yao [Statistical Abstract of the Republic of China], Taipei, Executive Yuan, Directorate-General of Budgets, Accounts and Statistics, 1955, p. 34.

The same Communist sources disclosed that, as of June 1953, the young and young-adult groups constitute an overwhelming majority of the total population. A 15.6 per cent figure is assigned to the 1-4 years age group and 11 per cent to the 5-9 years age group. Within the age bracket 18-79, the figure is approximately 58.9 per cent. No statistical data are available to indicate the exact age-group composition of the Central-South China population.

Based on 1953 census information, the national average birth rate is 3.7 per cent per year and the death rate is 1.7 per cent, a natural rate of increase of two per cent per year, which would be considered a high rate in any nation in the world. The Communists tend 161 163

I. INTRODUCTION

Of the more than 176 million people in the Central-South,¹ non-Han ethnic groups number from 8 to 9 million, constituting approximately one-twentieth of the total regional population.² The great majority of the non-Han ethnic groups are found in Kwangsi Province where they constitute 40 per cent of the total provincial population. The largest single non-Han ethnic group, the Chuang, totaling nearly 6 million, is also found in this province. 162 •

Honan has a number of Hui people scattered around Kaifeng; Hunan has a large number of Miao in the western part of the province and also some Hui people; and Kwangtung has Yao people in the north, Yao and Miao in the west, and Tan people on the Yüeh River. But the provinces of Hupeh and Kiangsi are very seldom mentioned in connection with ethnic minorities. As far as official Chinese history goes, no "barbarian group" has been found in Kiangsi since 617 A.D. The same can be said of Hupeh Province. This does not mean that there have never been any non-Han Chinese in Kiangsi and Hupeh; perhaps

1. Based on the 1953 Census as reported in the NCNA release of November 1, 1954.

2. Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Peking, Feb. 18, 1952.

the fact that they have preferred to live like the Han Chinese makes mention unnecessary.³ 162
Those who were unwilling to adapt themselves simply migrated south into Kwangtung and Kwangsi.

II. THE HAN CHINESE

Han Chinese constitute only 60 per cent of the total provincial population in Kwangsi Province, whereas in the other five provinces of the Central-South Region the Han Chinese constitute a greater majority.

At the beginning of the Christian era, Honan and Hupeh were already populated by Han Chinese.⁴ 162
Although Hunan was first claimed 166
and colonized by the Han Chinese in A. D. 47, Kiangsi in 138 B. C., and Kwangsi and Kwangtung in 221 B. C.,⁵ intensive Han migration into Hunan and Kiangsi began only in the T'ang dynasty (A. D. 618-907). The loss of Kaifeng, Honan, by the Sung to the Chin Tartars further intensified the southward migration of the Han Chinese. Only during Mongol rule in China did

3. Li, Chi, The Formation of the Chinese People, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Harvard University Press, 1928, pp. 248-50.

4. Ibid., p. 231.

5. Ibid., p. 248.

permanent occupation of Kwangtung and Kwangsi by the Han Chinese occur.⁶ 162 ●
166

The Han Chinese in the provinces of Honan, Hupeh, Hunan, and Kiangsi speak Mandarin and are more homogeneous than the Han Chinese in Kwangtung and Kwangsi. There have been three major migrations of Han Chinese into Kwangtung and Kwangsi, each resulting in their settling in a different geographical locality and their speaking a different dialect: 166
197

1. From Kiangsi came the first group of Han Chinese who crossed Ta-yü-ling(Mountain) and reached the fertile Yüeh River delta by the Pei River. From this delta they spread along the Tung, Pei, and Hsi rivers. This group now speaks the Cantonese dialect.

2. From Fukien came the second group of Han Chinese by the sea route. They occupy the coastal plains ranging from the Han River delta to Hainan Island. This group now speaks the Ch'ao-chou and Hainan dialects.

3. The third group of Han Chinese immigrants are the Hakka, who migrated from Honan to Kiangsi before they came to occupy the interior mountain and river valleys in eastern

6. Ibid., p. 236.

162
 142
 198
 771

NAME OF GROUP	ORIGIN	APPROXIMATE STRENGTH
<u>Hui</u> (Hui-wei, Hui-tai)	1. Arabian and Iranian soldiers and servants who moved into China from the 7th to 13th centuries and intermarried with the Chinese and aborigines. 2. Chinese children adopted by <u>Hui</u> families. Most of the <u>Hui</u> people in the Central-South are found around Kai-feng, Huanan, resulting probably from the Yuan Dynasty military colonization.	300,000
<u>Chiang</u> (Chiang-jen, Hsiao-jen, Hsiao-jen)	A Thai race who entered Szechwan from the west out of Yunnan and Kweichow, where the Mongol armies conquered the Southwest in the 13th century.	About 6,000,000
<u>Yue</u>	Unknown. Probably a branch of the <u>Chiang</u> .	250,000
<u>Yao</u> (Called White-browed Yao, red-browed Yao, from their attire; also Plain Yao, Cross-mountain Yao from their dwelling places; other names from occupational and cultural levels.	They came from the east into Szechwan province, probably after the immigration of <u>Chiang</u> .	160,000
<u>Miao</u> (Hsiao-tai)	The <u>Miao</u> in Yunnan are the aborigines. Most of those on Hainan Island came from the Chinese mainland during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).	400,000
<u>Li</u> (Li, according to local pronunciation; <u>Li</u> and <u>Li</u> are two branches of the <u>Li</u> , distinguished from the <u>Li</u> proper.)	Aborigines of Hainan Island.	300,000

[facing p. 71; part A]

THE SIX NON-HAN ETHNIC GROUPS IN CENTRAL-SOUTH CHINA

DISTRIBUTION

APPEARANCE

Settled among Han Chinese communities -- cities and towns. Most are found in Hunan, a few in West Hunan. About 2,000 on Hainan Island around Ta Hsien.

In the Yue of the Central-South, the Han Chinese blood overwhelms the Miao and Irenachian. It is difficult to distinguish the Yue from the Han Chinese except by their different religious practices and customs. Yue on Hainan Island have prominent noses and other Semitic features.

Most found in West Kwangsi.

Not noticeably different from the Han Chinese.

On the Hunan-Kwangsi border, near Lianzhou, usually in mountainous areas over 5,000 feet above sea level.

Those who live on the plains are assimilated into Chinese communities. Those remaining on mountains wear peculiar costumes like the Miao.

Mountainous areas in Kwangsi, and some in Kwangtung and northern Hunan.

Shorter than the average Han Chinese. Most costumes have wide embroidered trimmings; women wear large earrings.

Western Hunan in connection with the Miao in eastern Swichow (100,000); Northern Kwangsi at Tu-Miao-shan area (100,000); Northwestern Kwangsi around Hs-lung (80,000); Hainan Island.

Deep-chested, rump-checked hardy mountain-dwelling peoples; men dress like Han Chinese peasants; women wear costumes of colors peculiar to their tribes.

Hainan Island with concentrations in Wu-chin-shan and Lo-t'ing, Pao-t'ing, and Pei-shan. The Yue live in the most inaccessible areas. The Yue live close to the coast, in the north and south-west of the island.

Men and women wear 6-cornered hats while working. The tanned Yue resemble the Han Chinese; the wild Yue (Yue Yue) preserve their tribal customs; women tattoo their faces to mark tribal differences; both men and women have curious beards with big knots tied in various shapes, and do not wear many clothes.

[Facing p. 71; part B]

162
142
198
771

OCCUPATION	LANGUAGE	RELIGION
Most are small merchants and handicraftsmen; a small number engaged in agriculture; some are big merchants and landlords.	Chinese, supplemented by Arabian and Iranian phrases of a religious nature.	Islam (Ch'ing-chen chiao)
Agriculture, primarily wet-rice paddy culture.	They have their own dialect, but no written language. Most can speak Cantonese. A written Chinese language is being created for them under Communist sponsorship.	Ancestral cult; magicisms and the belief in transformation of animals; doll sorcery.
Agriculture, in mountainous areas.	Not clear.	Not clear.
Agriculture on mountain slopes; wood-chopping, charcoal-making, bamboo basketry are sidelines.	They have their own dialect, but not written language.	Not clear.
Agriculture (slash and burn); hunting.	Dialects; no written language; using Chinese when necessary.	Some Chinese gods have been taken into their temples.
Agriculture hunting fishing	Li dialect, written language unknown	No organized religion; but superstitious beliefs; magic, sorcery, chicken divination are common; shrines where offerings can be made to please various spirits who preside over the locality; also cattle cult or cattle sacrifice.

[facing p. 71; part C]

highly praised by the Chinese Communists since ⁵⁶³
it resembles the "mutual-aid teams" in the old ⁴⁷⁶
Liberated Areas in North China. Today, this
traditional practice of the Yao people may faci-
litate the task of the Chinese Communists in the
organization of the "co-operative labor teams"
among the Yao people.

E. The Miao People

In the Central-South most of the Miao ⁵⁶³
people live in West Hunan where there is today ⁶⁵⁷
a Miao Autonomous Region. It is interesting to
note, however, that the Miao people comprise
only one-fifth of the population of this so-called
Miao Autonomous Region.

In contrast to the situation in the Southwest, ⁵⁶³
where Miao tenants are exploited by their Yi
landlords, in West Kwangsi the Miao have been
persecuting the Yi minority to such an extent
that the latter group has dwindled in number in ²⁶ [62]
the last one hundred years from 10,000 to 3,000
Although most of the Miao, as an immigrant group
on Hainan Island, are tenants of the aboriginal
Li landlords and are controlled by them, they
do not mingle or intermarry with the Li. The
Miao on Hainan are said to be more intelligent
and literate than the Li. Unlike the Miao

26. Liu Chieh, Kuang-hsi T'e-chung Chiao-yü, [Special Education in Kwangsi], Kweilin: Kuang-hsi sheng-cheng-fu pien-i wei-yuan hui, 1940, p. 2.

and city dwellers kept their ties with their native villages, returned there whenever possible, and many saw commercial activity in the town only as means of the acquisition of sufficient wealth to buy farming land upon their return to the village. The town population, then, is mostly made up of artisans and peasants, plus a small number of landlords, retired officials, county functionaries, and established merchant families. The county seats (hsien capitals) were the centers for tax collection and administration of the surrounding farm-villages and also served as market towns where the peasant might sell his crop and purchase the manufactured goods he could not produce.

369

[62]

[634]

Town life for the average artisan was as meager as that of his relatives in the village. Long hours, hard work, low pay, few holidays were the lot of most, and living conditions were generally poorer and more crowded than those in the villages. Proprietors of many shops required their employees to live on the premises, so that they seldom visited their families. The diet of the town dweller was as poor as that of the poor farmer -- mostly cereals, vegetables, and some condiments, and meat and fruit on holidays only. Brief holidays were allowed at the New Year, the Ch'ing-ming festival, the mid-Autumn festival, and the Dragon Boat festival. On these occasions, townspeople usually tried to return to their villages; if this was impossible they enjoyed such delicacies as they could afford and strolled the streets, perhaps visiting friends and attending seasonal fairs and theaters.

369

511

[466]

[262]

369

527

Life in the towns was, then, closely linked with village life. But in the provincial capitals, such as

369

Economic Background

AGRICULTURE

I. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture forms the most important part of the economy of Central-South China. It has been estimated that only 10 per cent of the region's production comes from industry and approximately 90 per cent from agriculture. The region ranks first in the nation's production of food grain, and large quantities of raw cotton and a number of other specialties, including tung, tea, tobacco, and ramie, are grown. It has long been known as "China's Granary." This is substantiated by the common saying: "When there is a rich harvest in Hunan, Hupeh, Kwangtung, and Kiangsi, the whole country will live in plenty." The orchards and fisheries of Kwangtung are well known, too, for both the quality and quantity of their products. 241

II. CULTIVATED LAND AND RURAL POPULATION

The limited area of arable land in relation to the vast population in the six provinces and two municipalities of Central-South China is 162 •

Table 1. Cultivated Land and Rural Population of Central-South China^{*}

(unit: 1,000 shih-mou--1,000 persons)

S-shih-mou
A-acres

1946					
Provinces	Cultivated Land	Rural Population	Farm [#] Households	Shih-mou per Household	Shih-mou per Farmer
Honan	98,499 S (16,416.5 A)	26,220	5,082	19.5 S (3.25 A)	3.75 S (0.63 A)
Kiangsi	43,339 S (7,223.2 A)	10,034	3,292	13.2 S (2.20 A)	4.35 S (0.73 A)
Hupei	64,500 S (10,750.0 A)	19,046	3,960	16.4 S (2.73 A)	3.45 S (0.58 A)
Hunan	50,206 S (8,368.7 A)	18,992	3,900	13.9 S (2.32 A)	2.70 S (0.45 A)
Kwangtung	40,939 S (6,823.1 A)	19,448	3,479	11.9 S (1.98 A)	2.10 S (0.35 A)
Kwangsi	27,493 S (4,582.1 A)	11,645	2,330	11.9 S (1.98 A)	2.40 S (0.40 A)
Total	324,976 S (54,162.7 A)	105,405	22,023	---	---
Average	---	---	---	14.7 S (2.45 A)	3.08 S (0.51 A)
1955					
Honan	99,681 S (16,613.5 A)	35,372	7,074	14.1 S (2.35 A)	2.80 S (0.67 A)
Kiangsi	43,339 S (7,223.1 A)	13,418	2,683	16.1 (2.68 A)	3.20 S (0.54 A)
Hupei	64,500 S (10,750.1 A)	22,292	4,444	14.5 S (2.42 A)	2.90 S (0.48 A)
Hunan	50,457 S (8,409.5 A)	26,581	5,316	9.5 S (1.58 A)	1.90 S (0.31 A)
Kwangtung	40,296 S (6,716.0 A)	27,816	5,563	7.2 S (1.20 A)	1.40 S (0.23 A)
Kwangsi	27,493 S (4,582.1 A)	15,649	3,130	8.9 S (1.48 A)	1.80 S (0.30 A)
Total	325,768 S (54,294.3 A)	141,068	28,210	---	---
Average	---	---	---	11.5 S (1.92 A)	2.30 S (0.38 A)

^{*}For 1946 statistical figures, see The Statistical Year Book of China, 1948, pp. 70-71. The 1955 data was estimated from Chung-kuo Jen-min Kung-ho-kuo Fen-sheng Ti-t'u, / Atlas of the People's Republic of China, by Provinces, Shanghai, Ti-t'u Ch'u-pan-she, 1953.

[#]For calculating the number of farm households, figuring is based on the average of five persons in each farm household as reported by Chou En-lai (NCNA, Sept. 24, 1954).

(Table 1 faces p. 643)

the basic factor in any discussion of Chinese agriculture.¹ According to the census² completed on June 30, 1953 by the Communist government, the total population of this region is 176 million. If we calculate the rural and urban population by the ratio³ of 86.74 to 13.26 as the Communist do, the total rural population amounts to 152 million. How the Communists arrived at this ratio has not been explained. It seems that this arbitrary ratio is too high in comparison with the statistics of 1946 issued by the Nationalist government, which set the rural population figure of Central-South China at 105 million, constituting about 80 per cent of the total.⁴ 162 •

Based on this new census, the cultivated land per farm household and per capita is even lower now than in 1946. Some of these marked changes are shown in Table 1. 162
311

1. John L. Buck, Land Utilization in China, Chicago, 1937, pp. 267-69. According to a study which covered 16,786 farms in 22 provinces of the 1929-33 period, the average size of a farm was 25.4 shih-mou [4.26 acres] which is substantially below the minimum size considered necessary by even the most optimistic writers, such as Chin I-hung, on Chinese peasantry.

2. Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Nov. 1, 1954, p. 1.

3. Ibid.

4. Chung-hua-min-kuo T'ung-chi Nien-chien [The Statistical Yearbook of China], Nanking Bureau of Statistics, 1948, pp. 70-71.